

1991. This confirmed that the present housing recovery was on a much lower inflation trajectory than either the 1983 or 1987 recoveries, when established house prices jumped by 16 per cent and 25 per cent respectively in the first year.

The figure adds weight to the official view, reported in *The Australian* yesterday, that the forecast for the general inflation rate for 1992-3 could be revised down below the 3 per cent mark.

The Government is keen to see the housing industry map the course for a low inflation recovery over 1992 and beyond.

Although there has been little risk of a repeat of the 1988-89 boom which saw established home prices soar by over 46 per cent in Sydney and almost 30 per cent in Melbourne, there was concern last year that the industry could still race ahead relative to the rest of the economy and force up interest rates.

This concern faded towards the end of the year as rising unemployment put a lid on the recovery.

The national executive director of the Housing Industry Association, Dr Ron Silberberg, said the three reasons why house prices had been contained this time around were:

A SLUMP of 35 per cent in migration levels over the past two years, which has cut demand for housing.

EXCESS supply of rental accommodation in most cities, compared with the squeeze that preceded the last boom.

A BIG industry capacity following the slump in the commercial property sector, which has kept builders' profit margins down.

A State breakdown of yesterday's figures showed Brisbane prices increased by 2.3 per cent on average over the last three months of 1991, and 12.6 per cent over the year to the December quarter.

Canberra, which has been largely sheltered from the effects of the recession, recorded a 2.8 per cent price rise in the December quarter and a 15.5 per cent rise on the same period a year earlier. This is 10 times the 1.5 per cent general inflation rate for 1991.

The figures for the other States showed Sydney prices rose 0.3 per cent over the quarter and 5.4 per cent over the year, Melbourne prices fell 1.8 per cent over the quarter to finish 0.5 per cent lower over the year. Perth was down 0.7 per cent and 1.6 per cent, Adelaide rose 1.3 per cent and 1 per cent, and Hobart improved 1.4 per cent and 4.9 per cent.

The Real Estate Institute of Australia said the stronger price rises in Brisbane and Canberra reflected stronger population growth and relatively stronger economies.



John Surtees in Sydney yesterday and, above left, racing his Agusta

THE slightly stooped figure in the dark conservative suit and with the carefully combed, thinning silver hair didn't attract a second glance from passersby as he sat chatting on a park bench in central Sydney yesterday.

It was only the faint scars on his forehead and the huge hands — with a vice-grip handshake — that gave indication that this charming and affable middle-aged man had spent most of his life anywhere but behind an office desk.

Thirty years ago, however, John Surtees' office was the narrow seat of a screaming MV Agusta motorcycle

or the cramped cockpit of a Formula One racing car.

Surtees, now 58, won the world 500cc motorcycle championship seven times before his 26th birthday. He then switched to four wheels and drove for eight seasons in Formula One — winning in 1964, coming second in 1966 and fourth in '62, '63 and '67.

He is the only man to have switched successfully from bikes to cars and won the world championship in both.

Today he is a successful commercial property developer in his native England, whose only connection

with motorsport is to wheel out one of his old championship-winning bikes occasionally to do a few exhibition laps for charity.

"I try not to live in the past except for a few brief moments every year," he said. "Perhaps half a dozen times a year I take out one of the machines of the type I rode — a Norton, a Vincent or an Agusta — and do a few laps."

Surprisingly, for a man who is so closely connected with motorcycles and racing cars, Surtees said he had rarely ridden a motorcycle on the road.

"I rode one to work when I was an ap-

prentice at Vincent but I never did again once I started to race," he said.

His heart, however, remains firmly in the motorcycle camp when it comes to Grand Prix racing.

"I think from an entertainment point of view bikes have it all over Formula One," he said.

"The closeness of the racing, with five or six riders vying for the lead, makes the spectacle more appealing."

Surtees said he remembered his time racing motorcycles more fondly than his time in Formula One cars.

— D.D. MCNICOLL

With the Government's final-gavel-hold on power and the Opposition breathing down its neck, neither side has a clear mandate.

Car safety review must consider costs: Brown

By STEVEN WILSON

THE price of new cars could rise by hundreds of dollars if innovative safety mechanisms, including air bags and collapsible steering wheels, were installed, the federal Minister for Land Transport, Mr Brown, said yesterday.

Speaking at General Motors' Australasia Automotive Ltd proving ground at Lang Lang, south-east of Melbourne, Mr Brown said air bags and other safety mechanisms would be considered as part of a review of safety standards, but any new design rules would have to consider the extra cost on a vehicle.

"We have to balance out the safety requirement against the capacity of the ordinary Australian family to buy a motor car," he said.

It would cost about \$800 for an air bag to be installed in a new car during manufacture, an industry expert said.

Mr Brown had just watched the last of 10 cars crash-tested at Lang Lang as part of a Federal Office of Road Safety review of the passenger protection standards.

"Results from these latest tests will help show the most effective areas where improvements to existing design rules can be made," he said.

"It represents a continuing improvement in the safety of motor vehicles."

Researchers at FORS have sent 10 Australian-built family cars travelling at 48km/h into a 90-tonne concrete wall — the equivalent of hitting a parked car at about 100km/h.

They have collected data on the effects of the smash on the different models and how the various safety devices have protected the driver and front-seat passenger, two life-size dummies.

Mr Brown said the information would be added to previous research by the Monash University Accident Research Centre and co-ordinated in the next few weeks with a draft set of standards available for industry and community response by about June or July.

"If (the manufacturers) breach the standards they won't sell the cars."

Jew 'killed in cold blood with rifle butt'

By ROHAN SULLIVAN

ALLEGED war criminal Ivan Polyukhovich beat a man to death with his rifle butt after a failed attempt to kill three people with a single bullet, a witness told the Adelaide Magistrates Court yesterday.

Mr Ivan Timofeyevich Polyukhovich, 63, who shares the same name as the accused but is not related, told the committal hearing he had seen the accused, also known by the name Ivanechko, kill three people and take part in the burning of the Ukrainian village of Alexandrov during the Nazi occupation in 1942-43.

He said that in September or October 1942 he saw Ivanechko, with a rifle held "at

ring, simply with the (rifle) butt, the head was completely hammered".

Mr James: "How badly had it been hammered?"

Mr Polyukhovich, who had approached the bodies after Ivanechko left, said: "It was beaten up completely."

Mr James: "Could you see bone?"

Mr Polyukhovich: "It was beaten completely."

The witness said he had known the accused before the German invasion and had seen him visit Maria, the wife of his uncle, a soldier in the Polish army.

Mr Polyukhovich, who later joined the partisans, said that after the Germans came to the area, he had seen Ivanechko wearing a German uniform and carrying a German machine-gun.

In 1943, Ivanechko and Maria, who had two daughters, had moved together from Alexandrov to a Jewish house in the nearby village of Serniki.

Mr Polyukhovich said that before they moved, he saw the accused lead three men in burning about 10 houses in Alexandrov, including that of his grandfather.

The witness identified in court the accused and his wife, who is attending the hearing, as Ivanechko and Maria respectively.

Polyukhovich is accused of murdering 24 Jews and being knowingly involved in the liquidation of 850 others from the Jewish ghetto of Serniki.

The magistrate, Mr Kelyv Prescott, earlier issued a suppression order on evidence contained in a letter from Mr Polyukhovich to the daughters of the accused's wife.

The hearing continues on Monday.

the ready", lead two Jewish men and a Jewish woman to the bank of the Stubbie River near Alexandrov.

Mr Polyukhovich said he was about 100m away when he saw Ivanechko link the Jews up in a row "one behind the other... he walked back 3m to 4m and shot them in the back".

Senior counsel for the prosecution, Mr Greg James QC, asked: "One shot, or more than one?"

"Once," Mr Polyukhovich said.

Mr Polyukhovich, who is giving evidence in his native Ukrainian, pointed to a point just below the head of the court interpreter to indicate where the bullet had entered the first victims.

One man and the woman fell to the ground after the shot, and the remaining man "was also killed, but not with a

Job market shrinks for graduates

By EAN HIGGINS

LEADING employers are slashing recruitment of university graduates as the recession hits home but starting salaries remain good for the lucky few who land a job.

A national survey by Melbourne's Monash University has found that nearly half of the employers questioned — 47 per cent — expect to employ fewer graduates this year compared with 1991.

Only 20 per cent expect graduate employment to increase and 32 per cent say it will remain at the same level.

The study released yesterday was conducted by Ms Sandra McNamara of Monash's Course and Career Centre and is the latest annual survey of employment trends for graduates.

There was a pronounced decline in employment of graduates between 1990 and 1991, the survey finds.

In 1990, 3025 graduates were recruited nationally by 117 employers who responded to the survey, whereas in 1991, only 2134 graduates found work with 108 employers in the survey.

"As expected, the downturn in graduate employment has

been considerable," the survey report says.

Graduate employment is expected to be even worse in 1992, it says, with employers showing a "more pessimistic view on jobs".

But the bleak outlook for getting a job does not appear to be reflected in salaries for graduates, although the position varies from one discipline to another.

The survey finds starting salaries for graduates with pass degrees rose for all disciplines between 1990 and 1991, but the range of the increases varied considerably.

Hancock's women divided in death as in life

By GRAHAM LLOYD

FRIENDS and relatives of the late Lang Hancock were split between two public functions to commemorate his life yesterday after his widow, Rose, and daughter, Mrs Gina Rinehart, each organised different events.

Mrs Rinehart, who invited friends and admirers of her father to the original Hancock family home in Dalkeith, was clearly the favoured choice for Hancock's associates of status and wealth.

About 400 people, including former Queensland premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, former West Australian premier Mr Brian Burke and the Lord Mayor of Perth, Mr Reg Withers, turned up to pay their last respects to Hancock.

It was also the choice of Mrs Hancock's daughter, Johanna, who Mrs Hancock had tried unsuccessfully to stop from attending her stepfather's cremation, which took place at a private family service on Thursday.

In contrast, about 200 people, few of whom were publicly well known, attended a re-



Mrs Hancock, left, and Mrs Rinehart, right, attend separate services in Perth yesterday

quiem Mass organised by Mrs Hancock at the St Mary's Cathedral in Perth.

Hancock was not a Catholic but the Mass went smoothly except for an unrelated incident at the Royal Perth Hospital next door.

A patient of the hospital fell or jumped to his death from the eighth floor of the build-

ing in the final minutes of the service.

Mrs Hancock, wearing a black dress with black hat and veil, would have been unaware of the incident as she was whisked away from the ceremony in a white Bentley car after cancelling, without explanation, a proposed live television cross to the Ray Martin show.

Meanwhile, at Mrs Rinehart's house in the grounds of the plush Dalkeith mansion, Sir Joh paid tribute to Hancock.

Sir Joh said Hancock had been a great achiever who had shown the rest of Australia what an individual could do for the benefit of others.

"He was head and shoulders

above most people in his vision, his understanding and his determination to overcome difficulties," Sir Joh said.

He said he had not visited Mrs Hancock on his trip to Perth and declined to comment on the extraordinary publicity that followed Hancock's death, other than to say it was only a fleeting thing.

Sir Joh said Hancock would be remembered as "the iron man of Western Australia and Australia".

"His name will live on and there will never be another Lang Hancock," Sir Joh said.

Meanwhile, Channel Nine's 60 Minutes program confirmed that it had recorded an exclusive interview with Ms Johanna Hancock to be shown on Sunday.

A publicity release from Channel Nine says in the interview Ms Hancock discusses with frankness her relationship with Lang Hancock, the marriage between Lang and Rose, and her falling out with her mother.